

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 182
By Crutchfield

A RESOLUTION to honor the life and achievements of Joe P.
Adkins of Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those remarkable citizens who, through their professional and personal endeavors, have enriched the culture and lives of the people of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Joe Adkins of Chattanooga is one such estimable citizen of Tennessee, having lived a long life fraught with notable accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, born to a military family in Washington, D.C., in 1919, Joe Adkins and his parents moved back to Chattanooga after World War I; he has been a resident of Tennessee for 80 years; and

WHEREAS, after attending Chattanooga High School, it became clear that Joe Adkins was gifted in music and other forms of creative artistic expression, such as his singing and dancing antics in Chattanooga High School's annual "Stunt Nite"; and

WHEREAS, Joe Adkins enrolled in Bob Jones College in Cleveland, TN, and it was there that his lyrics began to assume a much more religious tone; he decided to enroll at

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Tennessee Tech to further his musical education, and his popularity earned him the position of Class Secretary; and

WHEREAS, an ardent patriot, Joe Adkins gallantly served his country in World War II as a medic at Stark General Hospital, using the opportunity to develop his musical abilities while bringing comfort to those in pain; and

WHEREAS, profoundly affecting him, the war caused Joe Adkins to become more introspective and gospel-oriented in his musical undertakings; and

WHEREAS, after returning from the war, Joe Adkins enrolled at Cumberland Law School, receiving his LLB in 1947; he was again well-liked and was elected Class Sergeant-at-Arms; and

WHEREAS, a consummate businessman, Joe Adkins became President of Marine Hosiery in 1959; Marine was the manufacturer of the famous Bonny Weans hosiery; and

WHEREAS, from 1964 until his retirement in 1984, he worked for the City of Chattanooga as a field inspector; and

WHEREAS, a deeply spiritual man, Joe Adkins is a Deacon at Brainerd Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, deeply conscious of his duty to his community and the State of Tennessee, Joe Adkins has been involved in community service in many forms; he ran for a seat in this General Assembly in 1962, he served as Secretary of the Tennessee Democratic Club, Vice President of the Young Democrats, a charter and founding member of the Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 4848, was elected to several positions within VFW Post 4848, including serving as Chaplain for 18 years, is a 50 plus member of the American Legion Post #14, was elected Vice Commander, Chaplain, and a member of the Executive Board of American Legion Post #14, has been a member of Chattanooga's Armed Forces Committee for better than 25 years, was a member of the Chattanooga Area Historical Association, and is a member of the Chattanooga Area Half Century Club; and

WHEREAS, Joe Adkins set a precedent by being the first man ever to be Chaplain of both the VFW and American Legion in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, a fervent humanitarian and public servant, Joe Adkins has served as a committee member for Webelos and Boy Scout Troops 100 and 30, he is a former member of the Boyd-Buchanan Athletic Booster Club, he volunteered for 15 years as a bell-ringer for the Salvation Army, he was on a committee that supervised and planned annual Easter egg hunts for 10 years, and he has been awarded many community service awards by veterans groups, including his 1998 receipt of a certificate for "exceptional, unselfish, and remarkable contributions to mankind, who is deserving of recognition by all citizens of Hamilton County, Tennessee" from the Hamilton County Clerk; and

WHEREAS, many of the songs he has written have achieved notable success, including his song "America I Love," which is under serious consideration by several recording artists; and

WHEREAS, his many professional and personal accomplishments aside, Joe Adkins is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Edith, and his son, James; and

WHEREAS, Joe Adkins represents the ideal of the Tennessee artist, philanthropist, businessman, and family man; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to his life of service to his community and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and salute Joe Adkins for his legacy of remarkable creativity, artistry, professional integrity, and community service, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

